



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MODESTO, CALIF., MAN SENTENCED FOR HAULING 1,200 POUNDS OF MARIJUANA

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a California man was sentenced in federal court today for possession with intent to distribute 1,200 pounds of marijuana.

Jose Maria Sanchez-Godinez, 41, of Modesto, Calif., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this afternoon to five years and 10 months in federal prison without parole.

On Feb. 17, 2005, **Sanchez-Godinez** was convicted by a federal trial jury of possessing with intent to distribute 1,200 pounds of marijuana.

Sanchez-Godinez was arrested on May 22, 2004, after being stopped for speeding while driving a GMC U-Haul eastbound on I-44 at Chestnut Expressway in Springfield, Mo. At the time law enforcement conducted the stop, **Sanchez-Godinez** consented to a search of the vehicle but was unable to provide a key to open the lock securing the rear bay door. A trained canine was then used to conduct a sniff around the exterior of the vehicle, and indicated for narcotics.

Law enforcement officers then removed the lock from the bay door, Graves said, and discovered 1,200 pounds of marijuana wrapped in plastic in several cardboard boxes.

According to the U-Haul rental agreement, **Sanchez-Godinez** picked up the U-Haul truck in Los Angeles, Calif., and was to return it to Kansas City, Mo.

This case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly R. Weber Dean. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow